



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE
SERVICES

July 1, 2014

Honorable Dan Wuori, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness
1300 Sumter Street
Concord Building, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3340

Dear Dr. Wuori:

We have conditionally approved South Carolina's application for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). Our conditional approval is based on our review of the IDEA Part C application, submitted by South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 30, June 11, June 19, and June 26, 2014.

Our conditional approval of the State's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C grant is also based on the State's policies, procedures, methods, descriptions, assurances, and certifications identified in Section II.A, II.B, and II.C, which is incorporated by reference to this grant award letter as Enclosure A.

OSEP's conditional approval of the State's FFY 2014 IDEA Part C application is also based on our approval of the policies, procedures, and descriptions submitted by the State under Sections II.A.2 (Early Intervention Services), 10 (Transition policies) and 11 (Head Start) of the application, which were referenced in OSEP's June 24, 2014 memo to the State. OSEP notes that the State's revisions to its policy under Section II.A.2 (early intervention services) of the application address the issues raised in OSEP's e-mail to the State, dated March 12, 2014, regarding assistive technology.

Our approval is also based on the State's certification in Section II.D of its FFY 2014 IDEA Part C application, in which section the State certifies under 34 CFR §76.104 that it will:

1. Operate throughout the period of the FFY 2014 grant award consistently with the requirements of the IDEA as found in 20 U.S.C. §§1431 through 1443 and the final regulations in 34 CFR Part 303 (as published on September 28, 2011); and
2. Make such changes to existing policies, procedures, methods, and descriptions as are necessary to bring those policies, procedures, methods and descriptions into compliance with the requirements of IDEA Part C, as soon as possible, and not later than either the date indicated by the State in Section II.A or B of its application or June 30, 2015, whichever is earlier.

South Carolina's IDEA Part C FFY 2014 grant award is being released subject to Special Conditions to ensure that the State corrects findings of noncompliance, as required by IDEA section 635(a)(10)(A) and 34 CFR §§303.120 and 303.700(e). The Special Conditions are set forth in Enclosure B, which is incorporated by this reference into this grant award letter. The Special Conditions are imposed pursuant to the Department's authority in IDEA sections 616(g)

and 642 and 34 CFR §80.12. Acceptance by South Carolina of this grant award constitutes an agreement by the State to comply with the enclosed Special Conditions, which require the State to submit: (1) by August 11, 2014, a corrective action plan (CAP); and (2) with the FFY 2013 Annual Performance Report (APR), due February 2, 2015, the data requested in the enclosed Special Conditions.

As part of your State's application for FFY 2014, your State has made an assurance, under Section II.C.2 of its FFY 2014 application and pursuant to 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect during the FFY 2014 grant period.

Enclosed is the State's FFY 2014 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 – P.L. 113-76 for the IDEA Part C program. These funds are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

Section IV.B of the IDEA Part C FFY 2014 application requested updated information about how your lead agency implements the restricted indirect cost rate requirements in 34 CFR §303.225(c). Your State indicated in Section IV.B that First Steps has a final restricted indirect cost rate agreement that has been approved by First Steps' cognizant Federal agency and is effective until June 30, 2015. If this restricted indirect cost rate agreement is revised during the period your State uses its IDEA Part C FFY 2014 funds, please forward to our Indirect Cost Unit and to your OSEP State Contact a copy of the revised restricted indirect cost rate agreement once it is approved by First Steps' cognizant Federal agency.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that "[a] State shall not be immune under the 11th amendment to the Constitution of the United States from suit in Federal court for a violation of this [Act]." Section 606 provides that each recipient of assistance under IDEA make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under the IDEA. Therefore, by accepting this grant, your State is expressly agreeing as a condition of IDEA funding to a waiver of Eleventh Amendment immunity and to ensuring that positive efforts are made to employ and advance employment of qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under the IDEA.

The enclosed grant award of FFY 2014 funds is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries may be necessary to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to IDEA Part C. If your State adopts a new or revised IDEA Part C policy or procedure that is required under Part C of the IDEA or under the final regulations in 34 CFR Part 303, it must subject those policies and procedures to the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §303.208 and, for those policies and procedures specifically referenced in 34 CFR §303.101(c), receive OSEP approval prior to their implementation.

As a reminder, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds, must report subaward information as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. First-tier subaward information must be reported by the end of the following month from when the award was made or obligated. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your State's Fiscal Accountability Facilitator if you have further questions.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

Enclosure A

cc: State Part C Coordinator